Mountain Weather Forecast

Northwest Highlands

Including Sutherland, Ben Wyvis, Wester Ross, The Cuillin, Glen Affric, Glen Shiel and Knoydart
Forecast valid from 06:00 on Saturday 23 Dec 2023 until 23:59 on Sunday 24 Dec 2023

Forecast Issued on Saturday 23 Dec 2023 at 04:31 by Met Office Aberdeen

Confidence: High for changeable weather on lead up to Christmas. Lower confidence for a window of drier, brighter, less windy weather on Boxing Day.

Headline for Saturday 23 Dec 2023: Cloudy. Sleet and snow in north, turning increasingly to rain from south. Windy and feeling bitterly cold.

Mountain weather hazards on Saturday 23 Dec 2023

Blizzards
Low Likelihood

Gales
Medium Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
Medium Likelihood

Severe chill effect
High Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
Medium Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Poor visibility
High Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain
Precipitation probability					
90%	90%	60%	60%	70%	40%

Forecast for Saturday 23 Dec 2023

Weather: Cloudy with heavy rain in south of area but heavy snow in north with a very sharp demarcation line between the two. The less cold air will gradually drift north through the morning reaching Ben Hope by mid afternoon, though where rain falls into chilled air in some of the glens then there could be some freezing rain or ice pellets for a time. By afternoon rain should have reached the whole region with a thaw setting in. Drier conditions developing in east of area during afternoon and evening.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Little chance.

Low cloud and visibility: Generally misty conditions with poor visibility in rain and cloud and virtually zero visibility in heavier snow leading to navigational difficulties. Also extensive clouds well down the hills.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/specialist-forecasts/mountain
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Forecast for Saturday 23 Dec 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1000	23/26 S	37/42 SW	49/57 W	48/57 W	44/52 SW	40/49 SW	37/46 SW
900	17/20 S	32/37 SW	45/53 W	44/54 W	40/49 SW	38/47 SW	35/44 SW
600	14/17 S	20/25 SW	30/38 W	30/39 W	26/35 SW	26/34 SW	24/33 SW
300	1/5 SE	1/20 SW	3/38 W	7/38 W	7/34 SW	7/32 SW	7/31 SW
Glen	2/4 E	3/8 SE	17/36 W	16/35 W	13/29 SW	12/27 SW	13/27 SW

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1000	1/-6	4/-4	4/-3	5/-3	5/-2	6/-1	6/-1
900	1/-4	4/-3	5/-2	5/-2	6/-1	6/-0	6/0
600	3/-2	5/0	7/2	7/2	7/2	8/3	8/3
300	1/-0	4/2	8/7	9/7	9/7	9/7	9/7
Glen	5/4	7/6	10/6	10/7	10/8	11/8	11/8
Freezing Level*	1600m	1700m	2000m	1900m	2100m	2400m	2000m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Met Office Aberdeen Meteorologist's View
Feeling bitterly cold, even when less cold air moves in. It will still be wet with strong winds. Also difficult underfoot conditions.

Forecast for Sunday 24 Dec 2023
Weather: A drier and brighter day with scattered rain showers. The showers will turn wintry above 700m late in the day as colder air returns. It will become very windy with difficult walking conditions once again.

Maximum wind: Westerly gales with severe gales on the tops, possibly storm force later, average speeds 40 to 50 with gusts 70 to 80mph, possibly 90mph by evening.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 40%, best in east of area.

Low cloud and visibility: Good visibility between showers with occasional cloud cover 700 to 900m. Brief reductions to poor visibility as showers pass by, especially over hills towards West Coast, clouds more extensive down to 600m.

Temperature: **Glens:** Plus 7 Celsius.
At 800m: Plus 7 Celsius falling to plus 1 Celsius by evening.
Freezing level: Above tops for much of the day, lowering to 900m after dark,

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